

ATTACHMENT A

Please change the paragraph beginning at line 3 page 1 to read as follows:

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Cross Reference to Related Patent Applications

B¹
This application is based on provisional United States applications 60/032,831, filed 13 December 1996 and 60/045,343, filed 4 May 1997, the benefit of the priority of both of which is claimed under 35 USC 119, and is a continuation-in-part of United States design patent application 29/071,503 filed 30 May 1997 which issued 9 May 2000 as U.S. D424,587, the priority of which is claimed under 35 USC 120.

[Please change the paragraph beginning at line 6 page 2 to read as follows:]


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B²
Gravimetric blenders operate by blending solid plastic resin material components and additives, by weight, in batches. Typically batches of material may consist of several solid material components. One of these may be "regrind", consisting of ground plastic resin which had previously been molded or extruded and which either resulted in a defective product or was excess material not formed into a desired product.

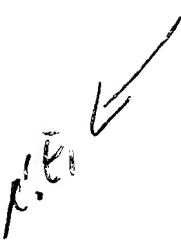
N.E. ← Please change the paragraph beginning at line 18 page 11 to read as follows:

Piston-cylinder combination 18 is preferably a spring-loaded piston-cylinder combination such that a spring within the cylinder serves always to urge the piston portion of the combination vertically upwardly considering Figures 4 and 5 into the position at which the port 90 of tubular valve member 40 does not confront the interior of

hopper 12 and hence valve assembly 19 is closed. Application of pneumatic pressure to piston-cylinder combination 18 drives the piston of the combination downwardly, against the force of the spring, thereby moving the port 90 of tubular valve member 40 into position confronting the interior of the hopper, whereby valve 19 is open. The valve member remains open for so long as the pneumatic pressure is applied to piston-cylinder combination 18. When the pneumatic pressure is released, the spring forces the piston vertically is upwardly in Figures 4 and 5, thereby closing valve member 19.

 Please change the paragraph beginning at line 14 page 19 to read as follows:

Weigh bin 15 is connected to load cell 32 through an aperture in solid side panel 30C of frame 14 by complementary brackets 156 and 186, as illustrated in Figure 10. Other suitable means for mounting weigh bin respecting load cell 32 are disclosed in [pending] United States patent application 08/763,053, filed in the name of Stephen B. Maguire on 10 December 1996, and pending Patent Cooperation Treaty patent application PCT/US96/19485, filed 10 December 1996 by Maguire Products, Inc., the disclosures of which are incorporated as reference.

 Please change the paragraph beginning at line 13 page 21 to read as follows:

Means for coupling and decoupling agitator 22 to the reciprocating rotational drive means is provided by a coupling assembly having male and female members which are illustrated generally in Figures 13 and 14. The smaller of the two members forming the coupling is a shaft 158 which is generally cylindrically configured with an axially-extending flat 160 in its cylindrical exterior surface. Female member 170 is of generally

cylindrical configuration, with a longitudinal bore 176 extending the longitudinal length thereof with a complementary flat 178 formed in bore 176 for fitting about the driving shaft 158 providing the source of reciprocating rotational movement for agitator 22.

pl.e Please change the paragraph beginning at line 1 page 23 to read as follows:

In the variation of this valve which is illustrated in Figures 6 and 8, where the hemispheric or half-circular opening in a tubular portion is covered at the bottom and has a wall running upwardly, tubular valve member 40A may be reciprocated up and down to provide very accurate downward metering of material. When such accurate metering of material is desired, a stroke limiter may be used on the rod 42 which connects the associated piston.

pl.e Please change the paragraph beginning at line 16 page 24 to read as follows:

Yet another feature of the invention is with agitator 22 being journaled within and removable unitarily with transparent removable front panel 17, there is no need for any interlock between front panel 17 and the drive means providing the reciprocating rotational drive for the agitator. Since agitator 22 is removed with transparent front panel 17, whenever panel 17 is removed the only moving part remaining in the mixing chamber is the rotating shaft member 158.